of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERC) in each State/UT for determination of tariffs; no sector paying less than 50% of the average cost of supply, agriculture tariff not being less than 50 paise per kwh to be brought to 50% of the average cost in not more than 3 years; recommendations of SERCs being mandatory and for any deviation from tariff recommended by it, the State Government/UTs to Provide for the financial implication of such deviation in the State/UT budget and a package of incentive and disincentives to encourage and facilitate the implementation to tariff rationalisation by the States.

(c) CMNAPP has been finalised as a result of the consensus reached in the meeting held with Chief Ministers of States;

(d) The Action Plan also recommends autonomy to the State Electricity Boards; restructuring and corporatisation of SEBs to run on commercial basis; improvement in the management practices of State Electricity Boards; improvement of various physical parameters including improvement in the plant load factor of thermal power stations and encouragement to private sector participation in generation, transmission and distribution.

Air Pollution

3831. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the additional amount the Government had to incur to build safeguards from the environmental point of view in their existing process units/new projects in the country by Oil Industry during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent exclusively on its various schemes including facilities to Agra residents for reducing the air pollution caused by the Mathura Refinery for protection of Taj Mahal during the last three years;

(c) the amount the Government propose to spend by setting up Hydrocracker facility for reducing the adverse impact of sulfurious emissions from Mathura Refinery; and

(d) by when this process is likely to be completed

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Employment

3832. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target to provide employment during 1997-98.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons got employment during 1996-97 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) Two Centrally sponsored urban employment schemes, namely, Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP), are being implemented in the country.

NRY : On the basis of tentative allocation, 1.32 lakh beneficiaries are likely to be assisted under the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME).

1.19 lakh beneficiaries have been assisted under SUME during 96-97 uptil 28.2.97.

PMI UPEP : The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP), launched in November, 1995, seeks to address the problems of urban poverty in small Urban agglomerations with a population ranging between 50,000 and 1,00,000 with a multi-pronged, whole-town and integrated approach to the economic, social and physical conditions of those living below poverty line in urban areas. Provision of self-employment to unemployed and under-employed urban poor through setting up of micro-enterprises is one of the many components of the programme.

Most of the States are in the preliminary stages of the implementation of the programme, such as House-to-house survey, spatial mapping, need assessment, preparation of project reports, building community structures, etc.

As reported by State Governments, about 20775 applications under self-employment have been forwarded to banks, cut of which 3080 cases have been approved.

Power Projects in Maharashtra

3833. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) The details of power projects functioning in Maharashtra at present and the quantum of power generated by each project during the last three years;

(b) the quantum of power being supplied by Central Power Grid and other projects to the State;

(c) the number of projects under consideration of Central Electricity Authority;

(d) the estimated power likely to be generated after composition of these projects; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government for adequate supply of power to the State ?